

Introduced by Senator Pavley

February 17, 2011

An act relating to food safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 478, as introduced, Pavley. Food safety.

Existing law governs the production, inspection, and distribution of food in this state in order to ensure, among other purposes, the safety and quality of food. The Department of Food and Agriculture is required to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the state, and is required to seek, enhance, protect, and perpetuate the ability of the private sector to produce food and fiber in a way that benefits the general welfare and economy of the state.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish the California Food Policy Council to develop a strategic planning process to provide information for the implementation of California's food policy and to ensure effective interagency coordination of state policies, programs, and activities regarding California's food system.

The bill would also set forth legislative findings and declarations regarding the food supply system.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (a) It is in the best interest of the state to ensure the availability
2 of an adequate supply of safe, wholesome, and nutritious food to
3 its citizens.

4 (b) To this end, the State of California supports a food supply
5 system that does the following:

6 (1) Ensures California residents have a safe and stable food
7 supply, free of interruption by natural or human events.

8 (2) Enhances the access, availability, affordability, and quality
9 of food for all its citizens.

10 (3) Maintains a safety net to ensure food security from hunger
11 for its citizens.

12 (4) Contributes positively to the nutritional, economic, and
13 social well-being of its citizenry and its rural communities.

14 (5) Is economically and environmentally sustainable.

15 (6) Recognizes that California is a unique place with diverse
16 land, soil, climate, and fisheries conducive to the production of a
17 wide array of food products.

18 (7) Promotes a fair return to all participants, provides
19 entrepreneurial freedom, and allows access to opportunity to
20 participate in the food supply system.

21 (8) Increases food self-reliance through promoting production
22 of food in California and increasing the consumption of California
23 produced food products.

24 (9) Is recognized as a vital sector of the California economy,
25 enhances economic development, and contributes positively to
26 California's quality of life.

27 (10) Is supported with assurance of an adequate supply of
28 farmland and access to working waterfronts to sustain California's
29 food and fisheries industries and provide for their future growth.

30 (11) Is accompanied by public and consumer information on
31 the health values of a proper diet, healthy lifestyle, and access to
32 California produced agricultural and fish products.

33 (12) Is supported by stable and consistent state policies and
34 programs.

35 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
36 that would establish the California Food Policy Council to develop
37 a strategic planning process that is data driven and outcome
38 oriented, to provide information for the implementation of
39 California's food policy, and to ensure effective interagency

- 1 coordination of state policies, programs, and activities regarding
- 2 California's food system.

O